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to include correspondence of various kinds. This is also clear from the correspondence at Hatfield House. All these papers seem to have been burned for the entire Elizabethan and Stuart period in 1618. What we have therefore in the Council Register is only a portion of the records which the Council kept; for historians the earlier part is more closely allied to the development of the administrative system than the part now to be published, though not as entirely trustworthy a guide as some have thought it nor as complete as it seems even after careful perusal. For all that, the Register is an invaluable and indispensable record for all students.

ROLAND G. USHER.

Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, September 1st, 1680–December 31st, 1681, preserved in the Public Record Office. Edited by F. H. BLACKBURNE DANIELL, M.A., Late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. (London: H. M. Stationery Office. 1921. Pp. lx, 805. 25s.)

DOCUMENTS calendared in the Domestic Series of the Calendar of State Papers are bound to be of a somewhat miscellaneous character, more so than is the case with the documents in the Colonial Series, but there is usually a sufficient number relating to some outstanding event of the period to give a certain unity to the collection. In the volume now issued for the years 1680–1681, though it contains echoes of the Popish Plot of 1679 and warnings of another popish plot in Ireland to come, the chief interest centres in the Presbyterian Plot, the “sham plot” as many contemporaries called it, for which Stephen College suffered death and in which every effort was made to implicate the Earl of Shaftesbury and others. The whole story is very involved and difficult to disentangle, and I am not sure that the present volume does very much in clearing up the situation, but it does throw light on the hysteria of the time and the ease with which men of either party accepted at its face value the evidence of witnesses. One is amazed at the prodigious number of this particular brand of gentry, who made it a profession to bear false witness against their neighbors and who were willing, apparently on any provocation, to turn about and charge with subornation those in whose interest they had thus perjured themselves. One of these was Bryan Haines, whom Pepys in 1668 called “the incomparable dancer of the King’s house”, who testified against both College and Shaftesbury and would have testified against anybody rather than starve (p. 418), and who became so notorious that his ill-repute spread to the colonies from Massachusetts Bay to Maryland. He certainly swore like a stout sinner, as Christopher Rousby wrote of him. One understands better the contemporary situation in the colonies, after breathing for a while the atmosphere of England during the years from 1679 to 1689. For that

reason, if for no other, these volumes have an importance for the student of colonial history.

But there are other interesting items also. We learn a great deal about the Dissenters, the attacks on conventicles, and the growing feeling of antagonism to the whole body of nonconformists, "Quakers, Presbyterians, Baptists, and other such vermin, which swarm in the land", marking the decline in popularity of the Whig party and the increase of the king's influence. We watch the arrival of the first of the French Protestants, four years before the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and the favorable treatment that they received at the hands of king and people, so favorable, indeed, as to call out the wondering remark that to succor the persecuted French Protestants and to persecute the English Protestants was "a work of seeming contradiction". We add to our knowledge of Seth Sothell's captivity in Algiers (p. 458), of Shaftesbury's plan of going to Carolina (pp. 596-597), and of Captain Henry Wilkinson, reputed governor of North Carolina, whose detention in the King's Bench prison can here be traced to December, 1681, thus making it doubly sure that he never went to the colony. There is mention of Thomas Dongan and Lionel Copley; there are references to the transportation of prisoners to the colonies; and there is a very valuable set of instructions for those having letters of marque against Algiers (p. 617). "To make him wise", "to pass over the Rubicon", "to put in a plunge about my correspondence", and to "refract from my testimony" are interesting specimens of the English of the seventeenth century.

C. M. A.

Histoire de Prusse. Par ALBERT WADDINGTON, Professeur à l'Université de Lyon. Volume II. *Les Deux Premiers Rois, 1688-1740.* (Paris: Plon-Nourrit et Cie. 1922. Pp. 598 30 fr.)

THOSE who have read Waddington's solid studies on the Great Elector or the first volume of his *History of Prussia* will welcome the second installment of this admirable work. In its impartiality and objectivity, its clarity and discrimination, and in the Gallic charm of its expression, it even surpasses his earlier writings.

It was the misfortune of Frederick I. to be placed between two princes who have eclipsed him in history. In comparison with the Great Elector, who created the Brandenburg-Prussian state, and the Drill-Sergeant King, who made it relatively rich, prosperous, and powerful, Frederick I. has been thought to cut rather a sorry figure with his vanity and his tremendously solemn insistence on decorative trifles. "Small in great things and great in small things", his grandson said of him. Frederick I. accepted in all seriousness and gratitude the flatteries of the two-penny poets of his court, who compared Berlin with London and Paris; who celebrated "Athens on the Spree" as the "Light of the World", by in-